

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend and consider the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An integrated circuit device having a memory area comprising a data memory, ~~wherein said data memory has~~ having at least one counter element, ~~at least one indicator element~~ and having at least one threshold value, wherein said counter element, on the one hand, counts at least one occurrence number of events occurring within said device and, on the other hand, can reach said threshold value, which is indicative of a large maximum number of occurrences of said events, ~~said indicator element~~ wherein the data memory comprises at least two indicator elements residing at non-contiguous locations within the data memory, said indicator elements being associated with said counter element and being designed to go from a first state to a second state when said counter element has reached said threshold value.
2. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein an event is an action occurring within said device which leads to a result and whose mean number of occurrences during the lifetime of said device can be determined.
3. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein said threshold value represents an unlikely number of occurrences of said events occurring within said device during normal use of said device.

4. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein a threshold value is defined for each counter element.
  5. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein a counter element is defined for a unique event.
  6. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein a counter element is defined for at least two events.
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- 7-9. (Canceled)
  10. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein said memory area comprises means for disabling the operation of said device when an indicator element has gone to the second state.
  11. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 10, wherein disabling means disable the operation of said device when the state of one indicator element is different from the state of another identical indicator element.
  12. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein said large maximum number of event occurrences is greater than about one hundred, and preferably, greater than about one thousand.